WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication system comprising:

a client including setting means for setting a parameter and notification means for notifying the parameter set by said setting means;

5   a gateway apparatus including acquisition means for generating an information acquisition request on the basis of the parameter notified by said notification means, information storage means for temporarily storing information received in response to the acquisition 10   request generated by said acquisition request means, and information transfer means for transferring the information stored in said information storage means to said client; and

15   an information source server including information storage means for storing the information acquired by said acquisition request means, and information transmission means for transmitting the information stored in said information storage means to said gateway apparatus upon 20   reception of the acquisition request.

2. A communication system comprising:

a client including creation request means for requesting creation of an agent for information acquisition and notification means for notifying a 25   parameter to be set in the agent created by said creation

request means;

a gateway apparatus including storage means for storing the parameter for each agent, storage area reservation means for reserving a predetermined storage area in said storage means for each agent for which a creation request is generated by said creation request means, parameter setting means for setting the parameter notified by said notification means in the storage area reserved by said storage area reservation means, and an agent for generating an information acquisition request on the basis of the parameter set by said parameter setting means, temporarily storing information received via a radio data communication network in response to the acquisition request, and transferring the information to said client; and

an information source server including information storage means, connected to said gateway apparatus via the radio data communication network, for storing information for which an acquisition request is generated by said agent in advance, and information transmission means for transmitting the information stored in said information storage means to said gateway apparatus upon reception of the acquisition request.

3. A system according to claim 2, wherein said client comprises operation stop instructing means for

generating an instruction to stop operation of said agent, and said gateway apparatus comprises agent stopping means for stopping the operation of said agent when an operation stop instruction is generated by said operation stop
5   instructing means.

4.   A system according to claim 2, wherein said client comprises delete instructing means for generating an instruct to delete said agent, and said gateway apparatus comprises storage area releasing means for
10   releasing a storage area reserved in said storage means in correspondence with a designated agent when the delete instruction is generated by said delete instructing means.

5.   A system according to claim 3, wherein said client comprises delete instructing means for generating
15   an instruct to delete said agent, and said gateway apparatus comprises storage area releasing means for releasing a storage area reserved in said storage means in correspondence with a designated agent when the delete instruction is generated by said delete instructing means.

20   6.   A system according to claim 1, wherein the parameter includes at least one of attribute information indicating a display capability and processing capability of said client, attribute information indicating communication capabilities between said client and said
25   gateway apparatus and between said gateway apparatus and

said server, and predetermined preference information designated by a user of said client.

      7.   A system according to claim 2, wherein the parameter includes at least one of attribute information
5 indicating a display capability and processing capability of said client, attribute information indicating communication capabilities between said client and said gateway apparatus and between said gateway apparatus and said server, and predetermined preference information
10 designated by a user of said client.

      8.   A system according to claim 3, wherein the parameter includes at least one of attribute information indicating a display capability and processing capability of said client, attribute information indicating
15 communication capabilities between said client and said gateway apparatus and between said gateway apparatus and said server, and predetermined preference information designated by a user of said client.

      9.   A system according to claim 4, wherein the
20 parameter includes at least one of attribute information indicating a display capability and processing capability of said client, attribute information indicating communication capabilities between said client and said gateway apparatus and between said gateway apparatus and
25 said server, and predetermined preference information

designated by a user of said client.

10. A communication method comprising:

the creation request step of causing a client for displaying acquired information to request a gateway apparatus to create an agent for information acquisition;

the area reservation step of causing the gateway apparatus to reserve a predetermined storage area for each agent whose creation is requested in the creation request step;

the parameter setting step of causing the gateway apparatus to set the parameter notified for each agent by the client in the storage area reserved in the area reservation step;

the acquisition request step of causing an agent in the gateway apparatus to generate an acquisition request to a server storing various kinds of information on the basis of the parameter set by the parameter setting means;

the information transmission step of extracting information for which the acquisition request is generated in the acquisition request step and causing the sever to transmit the information to the gateway apparatus via a radio data communication network; and

the transfer step of temporarily storing information transmitted in the information transmission step and causing the gateway apparatus to transfer the information

to the client.

11. A method according to claim 10, further comprising causing the agent to stop operation or release the storage area reserved in correspondence with the agent

5 on the basis of an operation stop instruction or delete instruction from the client.

12. A method according to claim 10, wherein the parameter includes at least one of attribute information indicating a display capability and processing capability

10 of said client, attribute information indicating communication capabilities between said client and said gateway apparatus and between said gateway apparatus and said server, and predetermined preference information designated by a user of said client.

15 13. A method according to claim 11, wherein the parameter includes at least one of attribute information indicating a display capability and processing capability of said client, attribute information indicating communication capabilities between said client and said

20 gateway apparatus and between said gateway apparatus and said server, and predetermined preference information designated by a user of said client.

14. A gateway apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing a parameter set for each

25 agent;

storage area reservation means for reserving a predetermined storage area in said storage means for each agent when creation of an agent for information acquisition is requested;

5   parameter setting means for setting the parameter in the storage area reserved by said storage area reservation means; and

an agent for generating an information acquisition request on the basis of the parameter set by said 10   parameter setting means, temporarily storing information received via a radio data communication network in accordance with the acquisition request, and transferring the information to the request source which has generated the agent creation request.

15   15.   An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein when an operation stop instruction is generated for said agent, operation of said agent is stopped.

16.   An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein when a delete instruction is generated for said agent, a 20   storage area reserved in said storage means is released in correspondence with a designated agent.

17.   An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein when a delete instruction is generated for said agent, a storage area reserved in said storage means is released in 25   correspondence with a designated agent.

18. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the parameter includes at least one of attribute information indicating a display capability and processing capability of the request source which has generated the agent creation request, attribute information indicating communication capabilities between the request source and said gateway apparatus and between said gateway apparatus and the information transmission source which has generated the acquisition request, and predetermined preference information designated by a user of the request source.

19. An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the parameter includes at least one of attribute information indicating a display capability and processing capability of the request source which has generated the agent creation request, attribute information indicating communication capabilities between the request source and said gateway apparatus and between said gateway apparatus and the information transmission source which has generated the acquisition request, and predetermined preference information designated by a user of the request source.

20. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the parameter includes at least one of attribute information indicating a display capability and processing capability

of the request source which has generated the agent creation request, attribute information indicating communication capabilities between the request source and said gateway apparatus and between said gateway apparatus

5   and the information transmission source which has generated the acquisition request, and predetermined preference information designated by a user of the request source.

21.   An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the

10 parameter includes at least one of attribute information indicating a display capability and processing capability of the request source which has generated the agent creation request, attribute information indicating communication capabilities between the request source and

15 said gateway apparatus and between said gateway apparatus and the information transmission source which has generated the acquisition request, and predetermined preference information designated by a user of the request source.

20 22.   A client comprising:

creation request means for requesting creation of an agent for information acquisition;

notification means for notifying a parameter to be set in the agent created by said creation request means;

25 and

information acquisition means for generating the information acquisition request by using the agent created by said creation request means on the basis of the parameter notified by said notification means, and
5   acquiring information via a radio data communication network.

23. A client according to claim 22, wherein operation of the agent created by said creation request means is stopped or the agent is deleted by generating an operation
10   stop instruction or delete instruction for the agent.

24. A client according to claim 22, wherein the parameter includes at least one of attribute information indicating a display capability and processing capability of said client, attribute information indicating
15   communication capability with respect to the transmission source which has generated the acquisition request, and predetermined preference information designated by a user.

25. A client according to claim 23, wherein the parameter includes at least one of attribute information
20   indicating a display capability and processing capability of said client, attribute information indicating communication capability with respect to the transmission source which has generated the acquisition request, and predetermined preference information designated by a user.